GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3308
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
AGRICULTURAL GROWTH RATE
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Council for Applied Economic Research rejected agricultural growth ofjust 3.8 per cent during the current financial year as compared to Government`s estimate of 5.7 per cent;

(b) if so, the Government`s reaction thereon;

(c) the details of basic variations in the two estimates; and

(d) the target of the same fixed for 2002-03?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)to(c): The National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in their monthly review for February 2002 had projected the agricultural growth of 3.8% for the year 2001-02 as compared to the official estimate of 5.7%. The NCAER projection is based on their estimates of agricultural production using certain mathematical models and assumptions regarding weather conditions for the current year in comparison to last year. However, the parameters and the assumptions taken by NCAER are inadequate and inappropriate. The NCAERprojected the foodgrains production for the year 2001-02 in the range of 198 to 204 million tonnes and oilseeds production in the range of 18.8 to 19.8 million tonnes mainly on the assumption that the overall monsoon rainfall this year was poor at 92% of Long Period Average (LPA). The NCAERreports ignored the fact that though monsoon this year was at par with last year, the spatial and temporal distribution was favourable this year. Further, the rainfall in post-monsoon and winter season was also favourable for the crops, a factor not taken into account by NCAER.As per the third Advance Estimate, based on discussion held with the State Governments in the National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign held on 4th & 5th April 2002, the countryis poised to achieve a record foodgrain production of 211.17 million tonnes and oilseed production of 21.16 million tonnes during the year 2001-02.

(d): The production targets for the year 2002-03 as suggested by the Planning Commission are as under:

Foodgrains	220 million tonnes
Oilseeds	27 million tonnes
Sugarcane	320 million tonnes
Cotton	15 million bales of 170 kg. each
Jute & Mesta	12 million bales of 180 kg. each